Press Release

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WWII Veteran to raise flags for the first time at new medical center

NEW ORLEANS – In a ceremony beginning at 9 a.m. this Independence Day, WWII Navy Veteran Joe Loyacano will raise the American, POW and Louisiana flags for the first time at the new Veterans medical center on S. Galvez Street in New Orleans.

"On the same day our country celebrates 240 years of independence we will honor the American flag and our Veterans," said Fernando O Rivera, FACHE, SLVHCS medical center director. "It's a great opportunity to celebrate the 4th of July with the brave men and women who sacrificed so much to keep our country free."

Rivera will serve as the Master of Ceremonies and special guest Maj. Gen. Glenn H. Curtis, Louisiana National Guard adjutant general, will be the guest speaker. A presentation of the colors by a military color guard of soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines, a 21-gun salute in honor of our nation's flag and music by the American Legion Post 175 band will also be a part of the ceremony.

"While we are coming together on this day to honor the American flag, this ceremony also is a sign of our continued progress toward opening our new Veterans medical center," Rivera said.

Following the ceremony, SLVHCS employees and volunteers will be offering tours of the medical center's inpatient and outpatient towers to guests.

Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System will begin seeing patients at clinics in the new medical center later this year. This flag raising event is the first public event at the new site. Future events at the new Veterans medical center include the SLVHCS annual Stand Down for Homeless Veterans Oct. 22 and the ribbon cutting ceremony scheduled for Nov. 18.

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